

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to submit full support for Bill 10 on behalf of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii. Being one of Hawaii's premier beach clean up organizations, we have seen first hand the problems related to single use plastic bags. Nowhere was it more prevalent then when we cleaned Kewalo Basin this past March. In the span of 2 hours our participants fished out 128 plastic bags. Many bags were out of reach from our poles and were destined to flow out to sea where they pose dangers to our marine life and navigation routes.

The State of Hawaii derives the vast majority of its income through the tourism industry. Having the luxury of single use plastic bag taken away from the tourists and locals in exchange for beaches free from plastic bag litter seems like an easy trade off. After all the money that has been spent to expand our beaches in Waikiki, we owe it to the locals and the tourism industry to keep it as clean as possible. The prevalent offshore winds of the South Side send hundreds of bags daily onto our beaches and into the waters. We feel that this BAN can help reduce and hopefully eliminate this from happening in the future. The problem with plastic bags is not only relevant to the south shore as we have found plastic bags at every single one of our beach clean ups around the island.

With so much public support for the SB 2511 and then HB 2483 and now Bill 10, please show that the public can still rely on their City Council Members since much of our faith in the legislative approach has been tainted. Show that our City Council Members are stalwarts of their constituents and not swayed by corporate interests.

Let's set an example to the rest of the Nation by showing that the City and County of Honolulu understands the problems with becoming reliant on petroleum based products and take a huge step in the right direction by banning the single use plastic bag.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Aloha,
Kahi Pacarro [kahi@sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org]

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